

I claim:

1. A humanized monoclonal antibody, or antigen-binding fragment thereof, comprising regions of antibodies from different animal species, wherein a hypervariable region of the variable region of said humanized antibody comprises a hypervariable region from a high-affinity non-rodent, non-human monoclonal antibody, wherein said high-affinity non-rodent, non-human monoclonal antibody has an antigen binding affinity of at least about 10^{11} l/mol, and wherein a variable framework region of said variable region of said humanized monoclonal antibody comprises a human immunoglobulin variable framework region and wherein a constant region of said humanized monoclonal antibody comprises a human immunoglobulin constant region.

2. The antigen-binding fragment according to claim 1, wherein said antigen-binding fragment is selected from the group consisting of an $F(ab')_2$, Fab and Fv fragment.

3. The humanized monoclonal antibody according to claim 1, wherein said high-affinity non-rodent, non-human monoclonal antibody is an ovine antibody.

4. The humanized monoclonal antibody according to claim 1, wherein said humanized monoclonal antibody has an antigen binding affinity of at least about 10^{12} l/mol.

5. The humanized monoclonal antibody according to claim 1, wherein said humanized monoclonal antibody has an antigen binding affinity of at least about 5×10^{12} l/mol.

6. The humanized monoclonal antibody according to claim 1, wherein said humanized monoclonal antibody has an antigen binding affinity of at least about 10^{13} l/mol.

7. The humanized monoclonal antibody according to claim 1, wherein said antigen binding affinity of said humanized monoclonal antibody is less than about 10^{14} l/mol.

8. The humanized monoclonal antibody according to claim 7, wherein said high-affinity non-rodent, non-human monoclonal antibody is an ovine antibody.

9. A chimeric monoclonal antibody, or antigen binding fragment thereof, comprising regions of antibodies from different animal species, wherein the variable region of said chimeric monoclonal antibody comprises variable region from a high-affinity non-rodent, non-human monoclonal antibody, wherein said high-affinity non-rodent, non-human monoclonal antibody has an antigen binding affinity of at least about 10^{11} l/mol, and wherein a constant region of said chimeric monoclonal antibody comprises a human immunoglobulin constant region.

10. The antigen-binding fragment according to claim 9, wherein said antigen-binding fragment is selected from the group consisting of an $F(ab')_2$, Fab and Fv fragment.

11. The chimeric monoclonal antibody according to claim 9, wherein said high-affinity non-rodent, non-human monoclonal antibody is an ovine antibody.

12. The chimeric monoclonal antibody according to claim 9, wherein said chimeric monoclonal antibody has an antigen binding affinity of at least about 10^{12} l/mol.

13. The chimeric monoclonal antibody according to claim 9, wherein said chimeric monoclonal antibody has an antigen binding affinity of at least about 5×10^{12} l/mol.

14. The chimeric monoclonal antibody according to claim 9, wherein said chimeric monoclonal antibody has an antigen binding affinity of at least about 10^{13} l/mol.

15. The chimeric monoclonal antibody according to claim 9, wherein said antigen binding affinity of said humanized monoclonal antibody is less than about 10^{14} l/mol.

16. The chimeric monoclonal antibody according to claim 15, wherein said high-affinity non-rodent, non-human monoclonal antibody is an ovine antibody.